The Concept of "Discourse" in Modern Linguistics

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Abstract: The article presents information about new concepts in modern linguistics, including the concept of "discourse". In addition, there are also opinions about the research conducted on the concept of "discourse", the opinions of scientists and their works.

Keywords: modern linguistics, discourse, vocabulary, language system, borrowed words, sound-transmitting, dialectisms.

I. Introduction

The vocabulary of a language is the most open and mobile level of the language system; it is constantly evolving, enriched with new words. Naturally, for this, mainly the building material that is in the language itself is used. New words are widely formed from existing ones and according to their model; words are also borrowed from other languages.

The language of fiction reflects the general development of the language, but the desire to find one's own figurative speech means leads to the creation of individual authorial new formations: potentialisms and sound-transmitting means of artistic expression of his works.

II. Literature review

The task of describing not only the realized, but also the possible, has long been set in relation to word formation by J. Grimm, F. de Saussure, L.V. Shcherboy.

Modern linguists have also repeatedly written on this topic: here we can mention the works of N.D. Arutyunova, M.A. Bakina, A.G. Lykova, E. Khapiry, E.A. Zemskoy, I.S. Ulukhanov, O.A. Gaginskaya and others.

The need to study words that are not implemented in the language can also be explained by the fact that these words often demonstrate the possibilities and patterns of word formation that elude researchers who focus only on words that are fixed in the language.

As noted by E.K. Chirkova: "... if we want to imagine the future of a language, then we must also carefully study the sound phenomena of speech, as they study dialectisms for a better understanding of the past language ..."

III. Analysis

The first studies of the internal organization of discourse date back to the turn of the 50s of the 20th century, when there appeared works entirely devoted to constructions consisting of more than one sentence - "complex syntactic whole" and "super-phrasal unities". In Russian linguistics, mainly logical-grammatical relations between utterances related in meaning, which form a superphrasal unity in speech (Figurovsky, 1974: 109) were studied.

The term "complex syntactic whole" was used by L.V. Shcherba already in the 1920s in relation to a single complex statement that combines various types of syntactic connection of components (composition, subordination, isolation, introductory constructions, etc.). (Shcherba, 1974:97)

In foreign linguistics, syntactic regularities in the organization of discourse were discovered in

the early 50s by Z. Harris, who established the fact of the repetition of morphemes and syntactic constructions in adjacent statements, as well as the semantic equivalence of various expressions falling into an identical environment (Harris, 1969).

By the beginning of the 1970s, the volume of works studying superphrasal unities and those processes that take place in the semantic interaction of linguistic units beyond the limits of a monopredicate utterance had noticeably increased. By this time, a scientific trend called "text linguistics" had formed, combining both linguistic studies and related approaches to the study of the text of connected speech - theoretical (literary criticism, functional stylistics) and applied (computer science, communication theory, computer-aided translation, language teaching, statistical processing of texts, etc.). (Gindin, 1977)

Since the text was in the field of view of different disciplines, in science, the object of which is traditionally considered language, there was a need to more clearly comprehend the new subject that had declared itself. It was stated that the boundaries of linguistic research were extended beyond the sentence to the level of discourse (Benveniste, 1966:129). The idea of creating a grammar of discourse as a new section of linguistics was also expressed (Kolshansky, 1976:21).

The linguistic status of discourse has been in doubt for some time. Thus, R. Godel wrote in 1966 "discourse is a rather dangerous word for use in linguistic definitions, since it implies both thinking and speech" (Slyusarev, 1981:61).

At the same time, E. Benveniste, operating with the concept of discourse, opposed it as a process to a system: "together with the sentence, we leave the area of language as a system of signs and enter another world, the world of language as an instrument of communication, the expression of which is discourse" (Benveniste, 1966: 130). Developing the idea of the procedural nature of discourse, he wrote that the utterance is "an individual transformation of language into discourse", and it is precisely "the utterance, but not the text of the utterance" that is produced (Benveniste, 1970:12). Thus, a distinction was made between the process of implementing the language system - discourse, and the result of this process - the text.

The authors of the French Linguistic Dictionary give the following definition of discourse: "In modern linguistics, the term discourse means any statement that exceeds a phrase in volume, considered from the point of view of linking a sequence of phrases to each other. In contrast to the approach that the sentence is the terminal unit of language, discursive analysis opens up new perspectives for linguistic research" (Dubois, 1973:156).

However, the term text does not lose its positions and turns out to be wider in its scope than the term discourse.

The text is both a whole novel and a collection of maxims, while, according to E. Buyssens, the novel is one discourse with subdivisions into numerous unities, and the collection of maxims contains as many discourses as maxims (Buyssens, 1970:90).

IV. Discussion

Representatives of the "linguistics of the text" quite rightly insist on applying the term text only to written documents. One of the most complete definitions of the text in line with textolinguistics belongs to I.R. Galperin:

"A text is a work of a speech-creative process that has completeness, objectified in the form of a written document, literary processed in accordance with the type of this document, a work consisting of a name (title) and a number of special units (super-phrasal units), united by different types of lexical, grammatical, logical, stylistic connection, having a certain purposefulness and pragmatic attitude" (Galperin, 1981:18). In contrast to oral speech, "the text is characterized by a graphic embodiment" (Turaeva, 1986:12).

However, by calling text only speech works of the supra-phrasal level, linguists thereby deny the status of text to other written documents. Obviously, the concept of text is applicable not only to

a coherent sequence of sentences, but also to any written document, including those with graphic elements, which, unlike discourse, is built both according to the laws of language and according to other schemes, in accordance with the practical needs of a person. . The text can take the form of a questionnaire, a list, an advertisement, a list of instructions, a set of phrases for training exercises, a dictionary, a reference book, etc. Finally, the text can contain material not only in one, but also in different languages.

For a linguist, a text is, first of all, language material fixed in writing (Shcherba, 1974:26), using which it is possible to establish certain patterns in the deployment of the discursive process, in the structure of the language system, and also to identify various properties of language units. Depending on the theoretical setting, the text can be considered as a sequence of units of any level - words and phrases, morphemes and phonemes, and not only as a sequence of sentences. Not every text contains discourse.

The concept of text is quite legitimate to use both to refer to any linguistic material in its written form, and as a synonym for discourse, if the given text is its written representation, given the widespread use of the term text in linguistic works in the latter sense.

In the 1980s, the concept of discourse in Western European linguistics became quite traditional, moreover, the experience of classical structural linguistics indicates the impossibility of obtaining adequate results of structural-semantic studies without resorting to discourse (Mahmoudian, 1982: 221).

An opportunity has opened up for science to generalize many disparate data about the language, exploring its discursive implementation. "We must finally admit that in reality there is only a single field of research, which is currently ruthlessly divided between semanticists and philologists, socio- and ethnolinguists, specialists in the philosophy of language and psychologists." (Todorov, 1983:368)

Language, having turned its dynamic side in discourse, took on the appearance of a completely new, extraordinarily complex object. The multidimensionality of the discourse has led, in particular, to the plurality of its definitions and the relatively rapid evolution in concepts even within the same scientific direction.

In speech activity, the discourse looks like a unit belonging to the highest level of the language, consisting of sentences related in meaning. All syntactic-semantic processes characteristic of the levels of words and sentences are conditioned by the structure of the whole discourse as a relatively independent linguistic unit of a higher order. Discourse, however, differs from the lower units of language in that, as a rule, it is not reproduced like phonemes and morphemes, but is created in speech. However, the same can be said about the units of the sentence level, and about the words produced in speech.

At the same time, the facts of the independence of discourse as a linguistic unit are also empirically obvious: linguistic consciousness operates with a fairly extensive set of entire discourses, including works of folklore, which have the property of regular reproducibility in speech (full or partial) - a property common to all linguistic units. At the same time, it can be assumed that discourse, like other units of the language system, is capable of having its own variants and allovariants, in addition, consequently, of having a certain structural and systemic significance, although the proper meaning of discourse may differ from the latter.

Discourse also has its own ethnolinguistic specificity, similar to the specificity of other units (phonemes and morphemes, words and sentences). This fact is largely recognized by translation theorists (Text and Translation, 1977), who claim that the true unit of translation is the whole text, and not a word or even a sentence. The discourse must be translated as a whole. Only in trivial cases does the discourse allow word-by-word and phrase-by-phrase translation, which is an exception to the general pattern. Ethno-specific elements regularly participate in the construction of discourse, always complicating the translation procedure, having no equivalents or analogues in the target language, including in grammatical, lexical and stylistic terms.

In addition, the discourses of different languages, as a rule, differ in terms of their own, "external" form - they cannot be translated without taking into account their linguistic and cultural context.

Therefore, among the properties that allow us to speak of discourse as a specific unit of a higher-level language, we can indicate the following:

discourse in its structure differs from all other units of the given language from which it is built;

discourse has the ability to function as a whole, regular reproducibility (full or partial) in a given language.

the discourse of one language is translated into another language as a whole unit, while not only lexical gaps are possible, but also stylistic gaps, i.e. the absence of an appropriate style in the target language, which requires resorting to stylistic transposition;

discourse has linguistic and ethno-linguistic specificity in the poetic aspect, which consists not only in the rhythm and metrics of poetic works and their rhymed organization;

this includes linguo-stylistic and linguo-cultural moments that manifest themselves at the level of discourse, as well as specific genre characteristics and different usage of discursive models in different linguistic cultures;

discourse has structural specificity in a given language as a model of a certain situation and, therefore, in the system it can correspond to a certain linguistic "stemma" with a complex structure, which has a matrix systemic significance.

All of these points require a detailed description. Of particular interest in representing the structure of discourse, of course, are the parameters of its internal (proper) form - what carriers of meaning it is directly built from, and how the whole discourse affects its components in a semantic sense, creating specific semantic modulations, which are then fixed in the form of the meanings of its lexical and phrasal elements.

In the conceptual representations of the text of connected speech, among many concepts, such as the integrity and coherence of the text (Leontiev, 1975), discontinuity of the text (Zhinkin, 1982), semantic completeness (auto-semanticism) (Leontiev, 1969), integration and completeness (Galperin, 1980), integral design (Zvegintsev, 1980), etc. All these concepts, one way or another, are related to each other, generalizing in the categories of continuity / discreteness (Gausenblas, 1978) and completeness / incompleteness of discourse, considered taking into account the mutual complementarity of the planes of expression and content.

Discourse continuity is a relative concept. Formally speaking, any discourse is discrete, since it consists of expressions produced by separate portions, quanta, in the course of speech activity. One can speak of continuity here only conditionally, taking into account, for example, the continuity of certain parameters in the deployment of discourse or certain regularities in their alternation. Speaking about the coherence of a text, this continuity is usually meant as an agreement between the parts of the whole in the formal (morpho-syntactic) and semantic planes.

V. Conclusion

It is necessary to distinguish the concept of discourse as a process of speech and thought activity from the concept of text as its result, fixed in writing. The text traditionally serves as language material for the linguist. It can be built according to the laws not of language, but of some other human activity.

Discourse as the highest level unit of language, being a linguistic model of a certain situation, has structural specificity, and also, like all other linguistic units, ethno-linguistic specificity. In the system, discourse can correspond to a certain linguistic "stemma" that has a matrix significance.

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